

State Water Resources Control Board

Lessons Learned, Improvements,
and Challenges Ahead

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Funding Fair
November 4, 2005

Grants Programs

- The Water Board administers:
 - \$650 million from Prop 13 (2000);
 - \$175 million from Prop 40 (2002);
 - \$527 million from Prop 50 (2002); and.
 - \$94 million* from federal 319(h) grants.
- To date the Water Board has:
 - committed \$826 million;
 - encumbered \$748 million; and.
 - disbursed \$385 million.

*Includes funding for State agency staff.

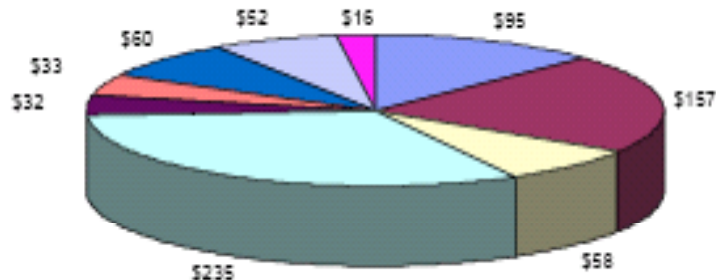
Grants Programs (cont.)

■ These programs fund:

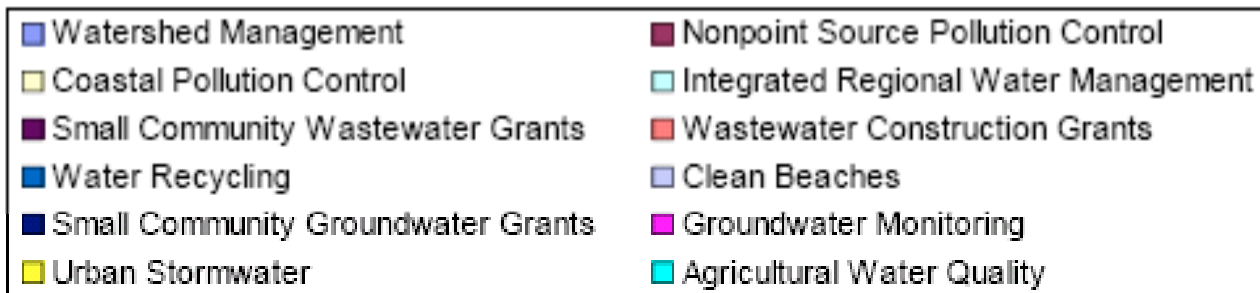
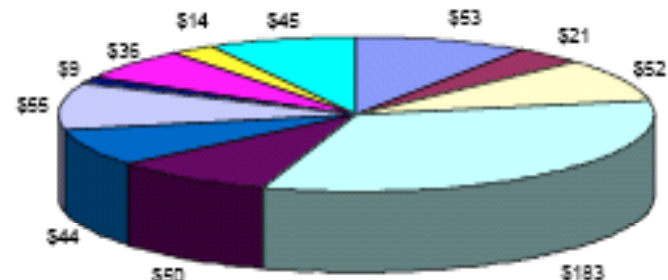
- Watershed projects;
- Nonpoint source projects;
- Water recycling facilities;
- Wastewater treatment facilities for small, disadvantaged communities;
- Groundwater monitoring;
- Clean beaches projects;
- Agricultural water quality projects;
- Groundwater supply treatment for small, disadvantaged communities; And
- Integrated water quality, supply, flood control projects.

Grants Programs (cont.)

\$ 737 Million In Grants Awarded by the Water Board



\$561 Million In Grants In Process by the Water Board



Nov. 2004

Lessons Learned

- Clarify program expectations before solicitation (Guidelines)
- Importance of open/transparent process
- Stakeholder coordination is crucial
- Clear science and technical review teams
- Provide feedback to applicants
- Survey applicants for future improvements
- Need to demonstrate measurable water quality and environmental improvements

Coordination, Consolidation, Improvement

■ Coordination

- Legislature mandates (AB2534)
- Stakeholders and the agencies
- Finding more effective model to optimize distribution of funds

■ Consolidation

- Similar grant programs consolidated to make it easier for applicants and streamline process to reduce costs

Coordination, Consolidation, Improvement (cont.)

- Continued improvement in the grants process
 - Better coordination amongst partner agencies
 - Consolidation when there is a net benefit to both the recipients and agencies
 - Better focusing of grants on highest priority problems
 - Streamlining the administrative process to save time and administrative resources
 - Online application process (FAAST)
 - More stakeholder workshops

Coordination, Consolidation, Improvement (cont.)

- More Improvements...
 - Guideline development process and scoring criteria much clearer to stakeholders and applicants
 - Grant agreements instead of contracts
 - Grant agreement templates posted on website
 - Broader range of technical expertise on review panels
 - Grants are now approved at Water Board when considered contract ready

Challenges

- Move the funds out as quickly as possible
- Lack of administrative resources
- Recipients capacity to implement projects
- Work with interested parties with conflicting points of view

Challenges (cont.)

- Balance political expectations for speed with demand for competitive process
- Leverage other funding
- Maintain momentum as funding runs out